

THE

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# Counsellor

PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS IN THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Vol. 5 No. 1

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

January, 1960

**A HAPPY NEW DECADE TO EVERYONE!**

## DMA OFFICIALS REVIEW 1959

A good year is reported in a compendium of reviews and predictions prepared by officials of the Department of Municipal Affairs at year end. While no records were set in 1959 steady progress and extension of service to the people is anticipated for the year ahead.

Brief reviews and a cautious prediction or two follow:



While tax collections in 1958 were highest for the past several years, it is not anticipated that 1959 collections will reach the same level. Consequently year-end reserves of our municipalities may not increase to the same extent in 1959 as they did in 1958. However, there is no good reason for pessimism and it is hoped that when the 1959 financial statements are received, they will show municipalities generally to be in a sound position.

With the Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation resuming operations, municipalities were able to borrow money to meet the continuing expansion that has taken place particularly in our urban centres.

Disappointment must be expressed in the fact that no new counties were incorporated at the beginning of 1960. However, we congratulate the people of the new town and the new villages whose organization dates from the first of the year.

The appointment of the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee and its active participation in solving municipal problems will, I predict, be one of the highlights in the field of municipal government when in future years we look back to the accomplishments of the past.

A.W. Morrison,  
Deputy Minister

## ASSESSMENT EQUALIZATION BOARD

Our prediction of last year (to the effect that the new Assessment Manual would be prescribed for general use throughout the Province in 1959) has been substantially confirmed. The new Manual is now available to assessing officers of all municipalities and was, in fact, utilized by some fifty municipalities in their valuation of property for taxation purposes in the year 1960.



It is the considered opinion of the Assessment Equalization Board that the eventual valuation of all properties in the Province on the basis of this Manual will greatly facilitate the work of the Board in the establishment of equalized assessments.

- J.H. Todrick, Secretary-Member  
(To Page 8)

## NEW FORMATIONS

Picture Butte, some 15 miles north of Lethbridge, became Alberta's 87th town January 1. Plamondon (near Lac La Biche) and New Sarepta (16 miles east of Leduc) were granted village status on the same date, with Betula Beach (on the south shore of Lake Wabamun) becoming a summer village.



**PROVINCIAL-MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE** - Auguring well for Alberta's progress in 1960, meetings of the above group are being held at which problems of mutual concern to provincial and municipal governments are frankly and thoroughly discussed. Chairman of the Committee (seated) is Hon. A. J. Hooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs. Hon. A.R. Patrick, Provincial Secretary and Minister of Industry and Development, (second from left) is the other member representing the Provincial Government. J.M. McKay, President, and Gordon Moyer, Vice President, represent the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts while Ross Ellis and J.M. McAfee represent the Union of Alberta Municipalities.

## GRANTS FOR RECREATION

Population figures for hamlets are being sought this month in connection with the second part of Alberta's Five Year Program as announced in December by Hon. A.R. Patrick, Provincial Secretary. According to the minister's statement, grants of \$10 per capita will be made available to all Alberta communities of 100 or more (with the exception of Edmonton and Calgary) to assist in providing them with recreational facilities. Some \$3,653,000 is proposed for this portion of the program.

Population figures used to compute the size of grants will be those used by the Department in 1959 for distribution of moneys under The Municipalities Assistance Act, it was stated. Figures for incorporated centres are readily available, but hamlets are included in totals for the district or county in which they are located. Departmental officials point out that some of these hamlets are large enough to qualify for the new grant.

Grants will be approved for any feasible plan of recreation facilities and can be applied to any project undertaken since January 1959. Any project that can be proceeded with during the five year plan period will be eligible for approval. Consideration will be given to projects planned jointly by adjoining communities, the minister said.

Applications for the grants may be made by the council of the town, village or city concerned, to the Provincial Secretary. Hamlets in improvement districts must make representation through the Department of Municipal Affairs, while those in municipal districts and counties will originate with the municipal or county council.



THE SECOND PAGE . . .

RING IN THE NEW

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust for gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.  
From Tennyson's "In Memoriam"

OUR BIRTHDAY

With this issue The COUNSELLOR enters its fifth year. For better or worse, four volumes of twelve issues each are now a part of the record. We begin this Brave New Year with No. 1 of Volume 5 . . . an appropriate point, we think, for a few random comments by way of appraisal and, of course, a New Year's wish for all.

If you refer to our nameplate, you'll find the words "Published by the Department of Municipal Affairs in the interests of local government". That means our purpose is to be of service to local government as an institution and to you, our readers, as individuals concerned with the administration of local affairs. To be of service means to help, but the phrase implies the giving and carrying out of instructions. The COUNSELLOR certainly is designed to help; and in so far as instructions or suggestions are concerned, you give them and (if possible) we'll carry them out. This has been said many times in our first four years and the invitation still stands.

Regarding circulation of The COUNSELLOR we've always gone along with the idea that those who want the paper will ask for it. One way or another the number of copies going into the mail every month has grown from 500 for the early issues to over 2100 today. In addition to municipal and school officials in our own Province, the latter figure includes government people in other Canadian provinces and a few in the United States, as well as (believe it or not) a couple even further afield.

Although requests continue to trickle in every month, we suspect our circulation is fairly close to its maximum.

A word now about the picture story in the present issue which we thought a reasonable way to mark our fourth birthday. As you see, the pictures illustrate the chief stages in the production of The COUNSELLOR and some not-too-well-known facts about the "offset" process. More than that, the story provides us with an opportunity to introduce a number of people who have much to do with the paper. We are grateful for their help, in some cases covering the entire four years of publication.

As for the wish, let's put it this way: We hope that 1960 will bring you every success and that health, wealth and happiness will be yours in greater measure than ever before. Since such a fortunate condition would undoubtedly be "in the interests of local government", we unhesitatingly dedicate the fifth year of The COUNSELLOR to this end.

WHICH CONVENTION?

WHEREAS gentle readers of the December issue who attended the Union convention must be wondering how come they had heard Bruce Ramsay deliver an address entitled "The Council and the Secretary" and, contrariwise,

WHEREAS those who attended the Association convention must be mystified as to why they had NOT heard said address, and

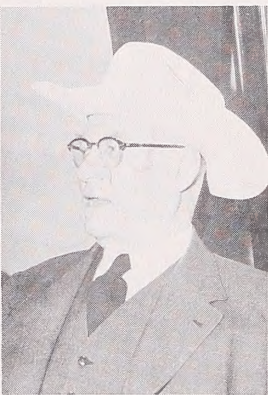
WHEREAS the motto towards which this publication ever strives is VERITAS et ACCURATISSIME;

THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN TO ALL that ye editor is thinking of growing a beard and remaining hirsute until his face resumes a more normal color.

VICE-REGAL COWBOY

Hon. Dr. John James Bowlen, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta since February 1, 1950, died in Edmonton's University Hospital on the morning of December 16. He was 83. A state funeral, customary when a lieutenant-governor dies in office, was held December 19.

Among the many fine tributes to Dr. Bowlen's memory was that of Premier Ernest Manning which follows:



This morning our Province sustained a loss that has brought sadness to the hearts of all our people. The passing of Honorable Dr. J. J. Bowlen has brought to its close a distinguished career that has few parallels in the annals of Canadian history. Few men have won for themselves such universal respect and affection as that in which Dr. Bowlen was held throughout this Province and beyond.

A rugged pioneer of the Canadian west, who played a major role in its development as rancher and farmer, businessman and public leader, this vigorous man among men blazed a trail of achievement across the pages of history that long will remain an inspiration to all who were privileged to know him. He crowned his full and active life by filling the high office of Lieutenant-Governor with distinction and the same devotion to his responsibilities that characterized all his previous undertakings.

It truthfully can be said that no man has done more to make the high office of the monarch's personal representative known to and respected by so many people in all walks of life.

His warm-heartedness, his straightforward sincerity and unfailing kindness won for him an innumerable host of friends among rich and poor, young and old, great and small, who long will remember his life and mourn his death.

I will always regard my many years of close association with him in his official position and as a warm and true personal friend among the most cherished of life's memories.

Personally and on behalf of the members of the Government and Legislature I extend to the members of his family deepest and sincerest sympathy in their bereavement.

THE CHANGING SCENE

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MOUNTAIN VIEW No. 49	
Secretary-Treasurer .....	J. Riddoch, Didsbury.
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAMROSE No. 63	
Secretary-Treasurer .....	R. J. Magneson, Camrose.

THIS MONTH

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Edmonton, Alberta.



"NOW WE COME TO AN INTERESTING PROBLEM . . ."

# WHAT ABOUT CROP INSURANCE?

BY HON. L. C. HALMRAST, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

AN ADDRESS TO THE 51st CONVENTION OF

THE ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

I am always pleased to receive an invitation from your organization to speak to the delegates at your Convention. I consider this Convention one of the most important held in our Province each year in that it brings together men and women who hold responsible positions in local government.

May I first of all give you a brief report on the crop situation as I see it. This has been a difficult year in some areas of the Province with a substantial portion of grain crops remaining in the fields.

We estimated that there were about 45 million bushels of wheat unthreshed in Alberta following early storms and approximately 70 million bushels of oats and 60 million bushels of barley. I think we can safely say our harvest is over for this year and will resume in the spring if weather is favorable. It is interesting to recall the year 1951 when crops were snowed in following a killing frost in many districts on September 26th. From Olds north to Edmonton 50% of the crop was threshed prior to October storms. The remainder, except for grain stooked, remained out until spring when favorable weather permitted the combining of thousands of acres. The loss in yield then was roughly estimated to be from 15 to 25% with a loss of two grades as well.

This year's crop situation has brought forth some talk about crop insurance and I would like to talk to you about this subject if I may.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BILL

You will recall the Federal Government passed a Bill at the last Session giving them authority to enter into an agreement with the provinces for crop insurance. They would pay 50% of the administrative cost plus 20% of the premium and would advance a province funds if their costs went above a certain figure.

Manitoba has agreed to enter two trial areas next year. They will request a sign-up of 25% of the farmers in the area before setting up the plan. If that percentage is obtained, the plan goes into effect on a voluntary basis. They will insure the crop to 60% of its value, using the previous ten year returns as a basis. The Province will not contribute anything toward the premium payment.

Since the Government of Canada has indicated its willingness to assist in a crop insurance program, the Government of Alberta has begun to study its possibilities. My purpose in discussing this matter today is to suggest that farmers and farm organizations begin to think about this matter. It is a very large subject and there are countless problems to be worked out. I want to present some of them to you for your information.

Roughly, crop insurance is guaranteeing the farmer a certain amount of production and if the production falls below the guarantee, he is indemnified for the shortage. The insurance plans for the different crops vary in details but the following illustration is given for the most widely used plan.

## METHODS OF INSURING

Assume that a farmer has 100 acres of wheat and that he is insured for 10 bushels per acre. Assume also that the price of wheat fixed for insurance purposes in advance of the season is \$2.00 per bushel. The amount of insurance on 100 acres would be 1,000 bushels. Assume that the farmer harvested all the acreage and produced only 400 bushels. The production would be short 600 bushels from the amount guaranteed and at \$2.00 per bushel this would mean that he would be indemnified for \$1,200.

A method currently being given consideration by some groups is to offer the farmers a choice of amounts of insurance per acre, such, perhaps, as \$15, \$20, \$25, and \$30, the largest amount not exceeding the legislative limits of the Act. In addition, there would be established a coverage figure in physical units, for example in bushels of wheat. This figure would be similar to the coverage used in some States when it was set in physical units. Any loss would be computed in physical units as was done in the early years. Then a percentage relationship would be established between the loss and the amount of

coverage. The amount of insurance purchased by the farmer would be multiplied by this percentage of loss to obtain the indemnity due the farmer.

Assume, for example, that the farmer purchased \$20 worth of insurance per acre and assume also that the coverage in bushels was 10 bushels per acre. Assume also that the farmer had one acre of land and harvested it all, obtaining four bushels. This would represent a 6-bushel loss below 10 bushels, and the percentage of loss would be 60 percent. Sixty percent of \$20, the amount of insurance, would be \$12 per acre, the indemnity due him.

Some farmer's troubles the world over may be traced to the failure of crops. The effect of such failures may be moderate, as when income is slightly reduced, or the effects may be disastrous when complete loss of income occurs, living standards go down and sometimes actual starvation occurs in some countries.

Crop insurance is a device to take some of the gamble out of farming. It is a device to spread the risks over the many so that the few who suffer losses will not bear them alone.

It is a device to protect the investments of the farmer in his crop and to stabilize his income. It is a device to strengthen and protect the credit of farmers and to add a measure of security to farming as an occupation. It is a device which will also help to stabilize the general economy for its benefits extend to businesses associated with farming.

## THREE TYPES OF RISKS

One of the first considerations we must have is the matter of risks. The farmer in general faces three types of risks on his crop. One is quantity or yields, a second is quality or grades and the third is a price risk. All of these three combine to make the risk to gross income. Insurance of the total income from a crop is likely unwise because it involves insuring a price. Prices are affected by many factors, often world-wide in scope. These risks are quite different than the natural risks of weather, insects and disease. The insurance should not involve protection against price risks; it should not assure an income but return to the producer a part of the money expended to carry on another year.

Another major consideration is the form of organization. It might be a co-operative or mutual organization, or it could be a private company. A third possibility is a government operated plan. There is the possibility of a combination of two types such as they have in Japan - that is a co-operative and the Government.

The amount and source of capital is a principal factor in determining the form of organization. The amount needed will depend on the size of the enterprise. By selecting the areas and the crops for insurance so that the risks of one area or crop counterbalance the risks of others, the need for capital can be reduced. However, enough capital makes for strength.

(More on Page 6)



Hon. Leonard Christian Halmrast was first elected to Alberta's Legislative Assembly in 1945 and has been Minister of Agriculture for the past six years.

A farmer and sheep rancher, his ranch at Milk River is now being operated by Cecil, one of his sons who is raising Hereford cattle.

Asked recently about developments in regard to crop insurance in Alberta, Mr. Halmrast said, "There is little I can add to my remarks at the Convention. We are going to study the possibilities of crop insurance and will be discussing the subject with farm groups to determine their interest."



PICTURE STORY

PRODUCTION OF THE PAPER

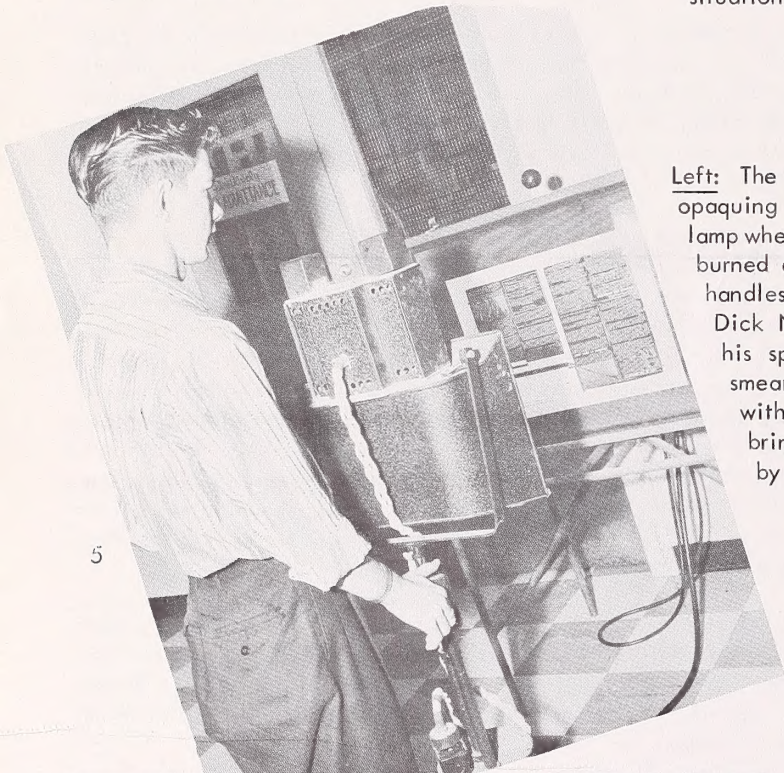


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Left: Editor at work. Story material for The COUNSELLOR is chosen for general interest; must be typed (justified) and pasted on cards 22 1/2 by 17 1/2 inches. Those black spaces are where the pictures will be. Above: From this point The Queens Printer's Office take over. Art Lowe and Reg Alpaugh size up the situation.



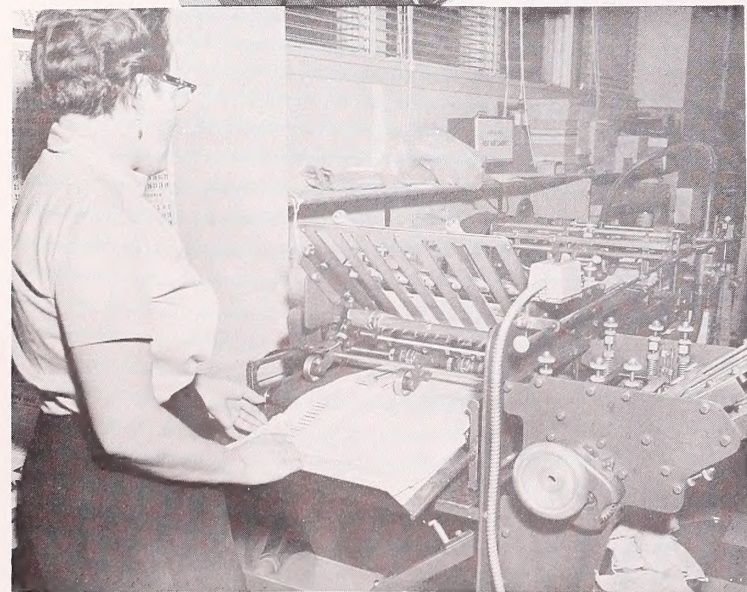
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Left: The negative goes from the opaquing board to the carbon arc lamp where type and half tones are burned on aluminum plates. Joe handles the arc lamp too. Right: Dick Nachtigall is an artist in his spare time, but here he smears exposed aluminum plate with developing solution to bring out the image burned in by arc.



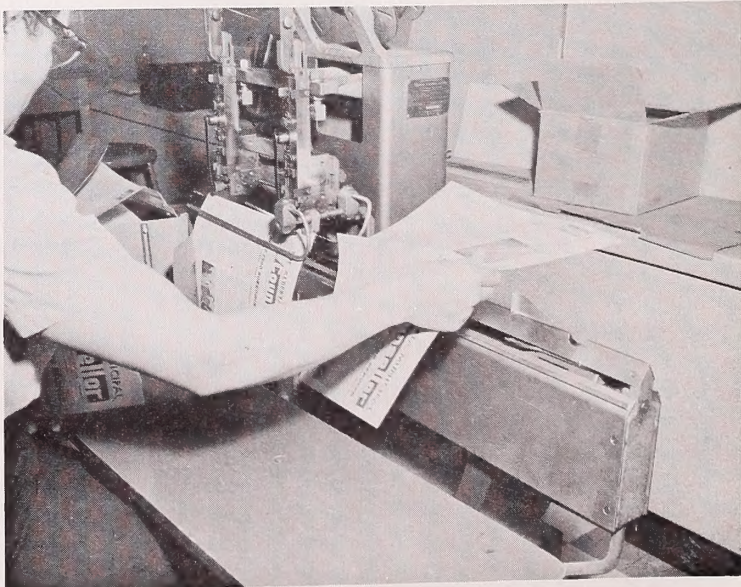
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Alberta Government  
Photographs



9

Above: This is a Baum Folder, Ellen Engen in charge. Machine does the centre fold only. Right: Next step, stapling. Operator places paper on saddleback; "dog" pushes it into position; double head clinches two staples at once from wire on reels above.



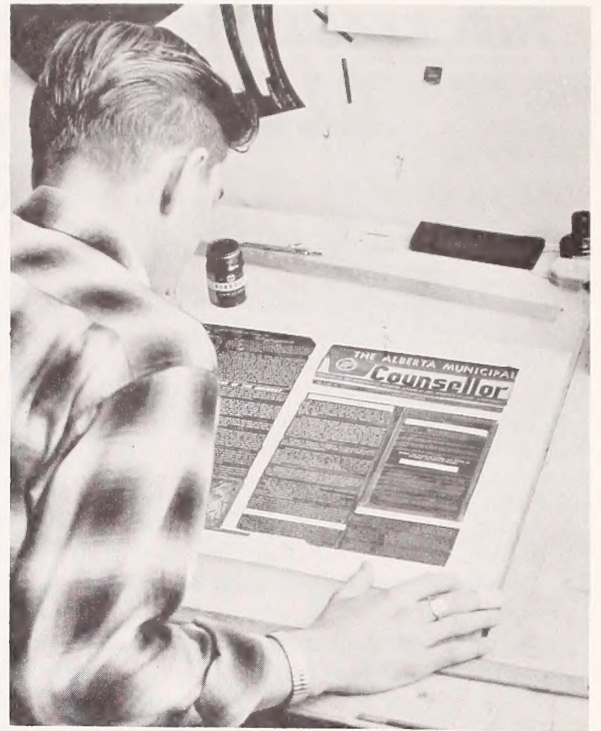
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3

Above: Ted Gizoski and Joe Kosick handle the huge Robertson Camera capable of producing a negative 22 by 20 inches. Our paper is subject to an 80 per cent reduction. Right: Joe goes over negatives, strips in pictures and titles and opaques (tidies up) the whole thing.



4

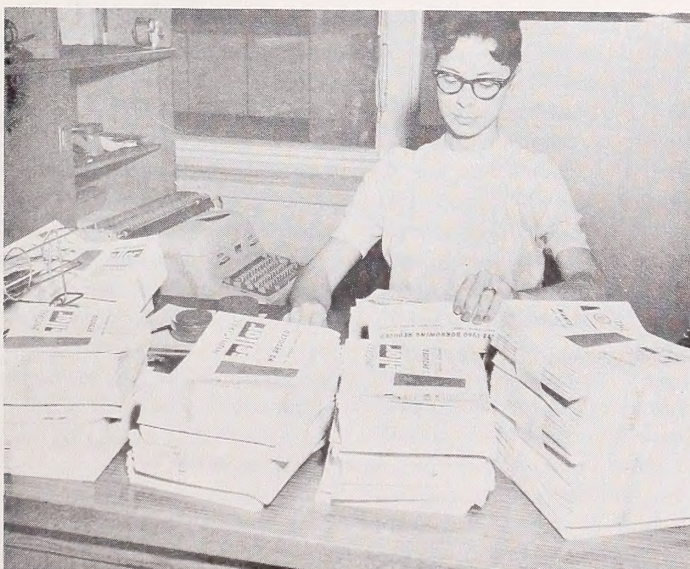


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Above: Meanwhile, back at the ... giant cutter (It will slice 5 inches of stock or a single sheet) Jack Tomchuk uses both hands on the two switches necessary to lower the 52 inch blade. An electric eye on right side of machine will freeze the knife on the spot. Right: Lionel Daze adjusts fountain of an ATF Chief Offset press. Requiring a skilled operator, press makes 6,000 impressions per hour. It's called "offset" because image on plate is transferred to a rubber blanket and then back on paper.



8



11

Above: Back in Liaison Office Mavis Scott, who operates the IBM Electric, now turns to applying machine addressed labels. Right: Another issue of The COUNSELLOR, labelled and stamped is carried by Henry (Hank) Ohrn down to waiting mail truck.



12



# THE EVOLUTION OF ALBERTA'S MUNICIPAL SYSTEM

## A COMPILATION SHOWING MAJOR CHANGES IN THE STATUTES THROUGH THE YEARS

(In November we traced certain steps brought about by municipal legislation through the years to 1911-1912. Provisions of The Rural Municipality Act of that year continue.)

\* \* \* \*

Section 48 however, provided that the council may, by by-law provide for dividing the municipality into divisions and with a councillor elected from each division. Any such by-law passed had to be submitted to the resident electors and receive the approval of two-thirds of the electors voting thereon.

Section 49 provided that every councillor held office for one year.

All elections were now held by secret ballot and the Act prescribed the form of ballot to be used.

Section 98 provided for the holding of a nomination meeting on the first Monday of December, between the hours of 2 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Section 104 provided that election day was the same day of the week as nomination day, but in the week following. The notice of poll as prescribed, stated that the poll should be open from 9 o'clock in the forenoon to five o'clock in the afternoon.

The Act also provided for the preparation of a voters list and prescribed the form of Poll Book to be used.

### STATUTES OF ALBERTA - 1913

#### Chapter 7. Amending the Rural Municipality Act - 1911-1912

This amending Act added provisions for a vote to be taken at the same time as a vote upon the question of the organization of a municipality as to whether there shall be divisions established in the municipality and a councillor elected from each such division or whether the councillors shall be elected at large.

A council of a municipality however, still had the authority in section 48 as amended, to alter the method of voting by by-law with such by-law being submitted to the resident electors for approval.

It also provided that six councillors would be elected in each municipality instead of 5 as previously.

### STATUTES OF ALBERTA - 1915

In this year, the Statutes of Alberta from 1906 to 1915 inclusive were consolidated. There were no changes in the Rural Municipalities Act with regard to election procedures during 1915 or 1916, but during the session of 1917 amendments did alter certain election matters which are outlined below.

Section 49 was repealed and a new section substituted. The section repealed simply stated that councillors would hold office for one year. The new section 49 increased the term of office of councillors to two years.

Section 86. A new subsection 8 was added to this section which provided for the addition of names of such persons as sons, daughters etc. to the municipal voters list. This section read as follows:

"(8) In addition the treasurer shall enter the name of the wife, husband, son or daughter of each person assessed, provided such wife, husband, son or daughter, as the case may be, is a resident of the municipality and of the full age of twenty-one years, with place of residence; all such names shall be arranged alphabetically."

Section 98. The amendment to this section changed the hours for holding nominations from 2 o'clock to 4 o'clock in the afternoon to the hours of 12 noon to 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

### STATUTES OF ALBERTA - 1918

#### The Municipal District Act

The Rural Municipality Act of 1911-1912 was amended in 1918.

Under it, all rural municipalities and every small local improvement district became municipal districts. The change dated from March 1, 1918.

The definition of "Elector" (section 2, clause 6) was amended to include wives, sons and daughters of electors who were residents and of the full age of 21 years. Section 2(7) was repealed and in its stead the following sub-section was in effect:

"(7) "Proprietary Electors" means an elector whose name appears on the voters list as the owner of assessable land in the Municipal District.

Section 55 was amended so that the first meeting of council was held on the sixth day of March instead of the first Monday in January.

#### Section 86(8)

This section was again amended with regard to the preparation of the voters list. The amended subsection read:

"8. As an addition to, and a separate part of such list, the treasurer shall enter, in alphabetical order, the name of ...

(Part III to Follow)

### WHAT ABOUT CROP INSURANCE?

(From Page 3)

Should the scheme be voluntary or compulsory? This must be decided in our thinking. To some extent the history, traditions and institutions of the people will determine this question. In the U.S. crop insurance is voluntary, in Japan it is compulsory. These are important differences. In a compulsory system all, or nearly all, farmers are protected, whereas in a voluntary scheme only a part have protection. In the U.S. as many as 90% of the farmers have protection in some counties, while in other counties it is as low as 5%. In a voluntary plan there is no certainty that those needing the protection most will buy the insurance. On the other hand, under compulsion, those needing insurance least are covered. This question is one of the most important and one that I hope our farmers will consider from every angle.

### AMOUNT OF INDEMNITY

Now we come to an interesting problem—how do we determine the amount of indemnity. A standard for measuring loss and settling the amount of indemnity must be set up. If we try to insure against most production risks, this is a more difficult task than it may appear at first. What does a farmer lose? Does he lose a complete crop or does he lose only to the extent that it had progressed at the time of loss? Does he lose only his investment in the crop at time of loss? The need to determine what has been lost is the question.

What about the amount of insurance protection? One of the pitfalls to be avoided is the tendency to ensure, or guarantee, too large an amount. This makes the risk higher, the chances of failure greater, and the premium cost higher. Let me illustrate: Suppose we wish to insure an 8 bushel crop of wheat. The 8th bushel has less chance of being produced than the 7th, so consequently is more hazardous to insure. The 7th is more hazardous to insure than the 6th bushel and so on. Most farmers can carry small losses—what they need is protection against severe losses. Frequently a farmer will have poor crops on some fields and good crops on others. This situation creates still further problems.

I hope the points I have raised will indicate to you that crop insurance is not a simple subject, that much study and work will be required to evolve a workable scheme and that those who will participate in any plan—the farmers themselves—have some very basic and fundamental questions to answer before a plan can be worked out. It is of little use to spend time and money on a proposed crop insurance program if farmers themselves are not prepared to participate in it.

The Alberta Government will pursue this subject as fully as possible so a plan to suit Alberta's needs can be presented to our farmers for consideration if they are interested in this type of insurance.





## SECRETARY'S CALENDAR

### Municipal Districts

#### Every Month

5th-Within 5 days after the end of each month secretary-treasurer shall prepare statement of moneys received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 61 (1) (v).

Feb. 1 - Auditor's Financial Statement prepared. Sec. 68 (1).

Feb. 10 - Secretary-treasurer to mail auditor's statement. Sec. 68 (6).

Feb. 11 to 13 - Meeting and nomination notices in Forms 3 and 4 Schedule A. Sec. 97 and 101.

Feb. 13 - Council shall appoint enumerators. Sec. 110 (1).

Feb. 15 - Prepare assessment roll prior to this date. Sec. 27 (Assessment Act).

On or before February 15 submit certificate of assessments to school and municipal hospital authorities. Sec. 204 and 297 (School Act). Sec. 110 (Municipal Hospital Act).

Feb. 20 - Nomination meeting. Sec. 96 (1) (3) (6) and 102.

Feb. 20 - Nominations shall be received from 3 to 4 p.m. Sec. 103.

Feb. 22 - Withdrawal of Candidate within 48 hours after close of nominations. Sec. 108.

Feb. 23 - After expiry of 48 hours from close of nominations, enumerators shall prepare list of qualified persons not on list of electors. Sec. 113 and 114.

Secretary-treasurer shall complete list of electors and certify on the 2nd Saturday of March. Sec. 116 to 119.

Feb. 28 - Auditor shall send notice to at least 15% of taxpayers in arrears. Sec. 67 (5).

Assessment slips to be mailed prior to March 1st. Sec. 29 (Assessment Act).

Appoint Court of Revision. Sec. 38 (Assessment Act).

Advise complainants re Court of Revision. Sec. 39 (Assessment Act).

### Towns and Villages

#### Every Month

15th-Secretary-treasurer shall prepare statement of moneys received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter in minutes. Sec. 67(r).

Feb. 1 - Auditor shall prepare statements. Sec. 76 (1).

Feb. 2 - Secretary-treasurer shall post notices of annual meeting. Sec. 125 (2).

Feb. 8 - Secretary-treasurer shall publish synopsis of auditor's report. Sec. 76 (5).

Feb. 9 - Annual meeting of electors. Sec. 125 (1). Submission of reports. Sec. 126 (1).

Feb. 15 - Certificate of assessments to school and municipal hospital authorities. Sec. 284 (School Act). Sec. 110 (Municipal Hospital Act).

Feb. 15 - Prepare assessment roll prior to February 15. Sec. 27 (Assessment Act).

Feb. 28 - Auditor to send notice to 25% of taxpayers who have not paid in full. Sec. 74 (5).

March 1 - Assessment slips to be mailed prior to March 1st. Sec. 29 (Assessment Act).

Appoint Court of Revision. Sec. 38 (Assessment Act).

Advise complainants re Court of Revision. Sec. 39 (Assessment Act).

## LONG IN THE SERVICE

Stirring days, those of the early 1880's, with men and women leaving their homes in the east to start a new kind of life in western Canada. Two of these pioneers arrived in the Clover Bar district in 1881 after 11 weeks on the trail from Winnipeg by ox-cart. Two years later their son was born. He was one of the first white children born in this part of the country and they named him Ezekiel.



EZEKIEL KEITH

Ezekiel Keith can tell many interesting stories about days gone by ... one of which appears in the minute book of the old Municipal District of Clover Bar No. 517. It seems when Mr. Keith was just starting out as a councillor roads in the area were not as good as they are now. In any event in answer to a complaint by a suffering ratepayer the entire council went out to make a first hand inspection. The road must have been even worse than reported because the car in which Mr. Keith was riding hit such a bump as to cause injury to his head. The minutes record that because of injuries received, the meeting was adjourned while a doctor took seven stitches in Mr. Keith's scalp.

Mr. Keith was first elected in 1927 and first became Reeve of the Clover Bar Municipal District No. 517 in 1939. With amalgamation in 1943 he retained his seat on the council and was Reeve of the new Strathcona M.D. No. 83 in 1946 and 1947. In 1955 he was again named Reeve and has held the position since then. In summary, then, Ezekiel Keith's municipal service covers 33 years as councillor and eleven as Reeve.

But his work on council is only a fraction of Mr. Keith's public service. Here are some of his other activities: Active with the Northern Alberta Pioneers and Old Timers Association, he is a life member of that illustrious group. He has served as secretary-treasurer of the Edmonton Union of Municipal Districts since he helped to found it in 1936. A member of the Edmonton Exhibition Association, he has also been president and director of the school fair and has served as secretary-treasurer and director of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture for several years. Long interested in school affairs, Mr. Keith was the secretary-treasurer and a trustee of the Clover Bar Village S.D. until the present large School Division took over, and will be remembered as a basketball coach at that centre for many years.

Staunch members of the Clover Bar United Church, Mr. and Mrs. Ezekiel Keith have three daughters, two living in Edmonton and the third in North Vancouver, B.C.

### HONORING CIVIC OFFICIALS

An annual testimonial banquet honoring former councillors, school trustees and hospital board members in each community would be one of the greatest possible projects to arouse interest in civic affairs, honor men and women, who have made outstanding contributions to the district and inform the general public of the work ahead.

The annual testimonial dinner, too, might be an occasion to honor the citizen of the year or make any other worthy presentation. It is certain that the testimonial dinner, open to the general public, would bug the eyes of voters and show them that through the years, they have unfailingly, at the polls, elected the best and most community minded citizens.

- Innisfail Province

### COMPARATIVE FIGURES ON . . .

Department of Labour (Canada)

## THE MUNICIPAL WINTER WORKS INCENTIVE PROGRAM 1959-1960

To December 24, 1959	Canada	B.C.	Alta.	Sask.	Man	Ont.	Que.	N.B.	N.S.	P.E.I.	Nfld.
Applications Received	1,141	221	157	185	46	370	73	45	22	1	23
Applications Accepted	1,097	211	153	177	45	354	71	44	21	-	21
Applications Rejected or Pending	44	10	4	6	1	16	2	1	1	1	2
Estimated Total Cost of Projects*	61,412	9,465	8,061	2,874	2,230	18,003	19,422	580	382	-	395
Estimated Total Direct Payroll Cost of Projects	20,193	4,040	2,472	1,367	785	5,790	4,972	395	163	-	209
Estimated Number of Men to be Hired	22,298	2,562	2,599	4,778	851	5,586	1,844	1,598	333	-	347
* Per Capita Cost	3.61	6.13	6.71	3.23	2.56	3.10	3.97	1.00	.54	-	.90

N.B. - Cost figures shown in thousands of dollars.



REVIEWS and PREDICTIONS  
(From Page 1)

MUNICIPAL INSPECTION BRANCH



The year just ended marked the successful conclusion of the first Federal-Municipal winter works incentive program. This was notable in that it made federal financial aid available to our municipalities to assist them in relieving unemployment during the winter season.

1959 also saw the formation of the New Town of Swan Hills which will be carved from the pine forests of the Swan Hills district and built literally from the ground up. This time next year will see a bustling little town complete with municipal services and modern shopping facilities.

Due to higher rates of interest and less capital being available, considerable belt-tightening in the realm of municipal capital expenditures can be expected for 1960. This may bring some advantages. For example, it could provide a breathing period which will enable municipalities to consolidate and improve their financial position. Altogether, I think we can count on 1960 being a very interesting year.

- Wm. Isbister, Assistant Chief Municipal Inspector

TOWN and RURAL PLANNING

During 1959 the quantity and scope of the work of the Town and Rural Planning Branch has continued to increase as it has during the past several years.

The number of plans of subdivisions have continued to increase. For example, in 1948 a total of 265 plans were registered in the Province and it is very likely that more than 800 plans will have been registered during 1959.



The work of the Provincial Planning Advisory Board shows even a greater increase and can be illustrated by the numbers of Orders of the Board. In 1953 the Board issued 36 Orders. From April 1st to November 30th, 1959, 190 Orders have been issued and there are still four months to go in this fiscal year.

In keeping with the rate of development of the Province, it is almost a certainty that the activity of the Town and Rural Planning Branch will continue to increase and that 1960 will prove to be another record year.

- James B. Gee, Senior Administrative Officer

ACCOUNTS BRANCH



1959 is significant for being the year in which the Provincial Government made the decision to prepare for the installation of an Electronic Data Processing Centre. The results of such a decision will be far-reaching and will ensure excellent administration of many complexities of governmental business.

1960 will see the completion of the programming of various phases of government to the Electronic Data Processing Centre.

D.R. Watson, Secretary-Accountant

TAX RECOVERY

Tax collections have been higher than we anticipated in view of the crop conditions this past fall. Land sales, however, have been on the decline with the buyers being predominately farmers wishing to enlarge their holdings to provide more economic farm units.

- J.A. Sloan, Assistant Supervisor of Tax Recovery



FIELD SERVICE BRANCH



This Branch has been very active during the past year, as in addition to more detail work in the assessment rolls, eleven general assessments have been completed in Improvement Districts.

Activities of the Branch are also extending, as most of the ratepayers in Improvement Districts are taking a greater interest in the administration of their affairs, and this has been reflected in an increase in correspondence both in the Branch and at the twelve District Offices.

Equipment Licensing is now one of the responsibilities assumed by the Branch, and through this we have four License Inspectors and

in some cases, office assistants have been added to take care of this phase of the work.

The Branch is responsible for advising all Municipalities in the Province of oil well drilling activities within their respective jurisdictions. Due also to oil development, right-of-entry work has increased far beyond that anticipated.

In the Improvement Districts, applications for loans under the Farm Purchase Credit Act are increasing steadily. Two new Agricultural Service Boards have been formed and brucellosis control administration has quadrupled.

- E.M. Rymer, Assistant Field Supervisor

ASSESSMENT BRANCH

The year 1959 marked the 10th anniversary of the Assessment Branch which in this short span has grown into an organization extending assessment services to over 90 per cent of the towns and villages in Alberta, to National Parks, to various municipalities in the Northwest Territories and in the past year assisted five city assessors.



The Branch has become responsible for preparing and maintaining, in these municipalities, valuations which in 1959 were far in excess of 300 million dollars and in the process good public relations have reached an all time high. The new manual introduced in 1959 has been applied in 48 urban municipalities by Departmental assessors and it is expected a similar number will be reassessed in 1960.

With assessment legislation one of the prime topics at the forthcoming session, 1960 will be another busy year with the possibility of further expansion in assessment services.

- D.E. Mills, Supervisor of Assessments

ALBERTA ASSESSMENT APPEAL BOARD



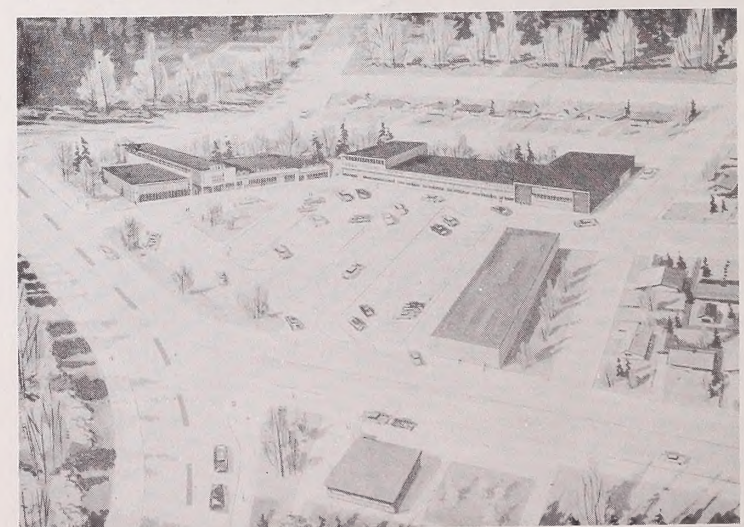
During the past few months the new Assessment Manual has been employed in the completion of nearly fifty general assessments in Alberta towns and villages. In each instance the application of the new Manual has caused a noticeable shift of the tax burden from one type of property to another. The shift is due to the fact that during the period 1936 to 1957 the cost of building materials did not increase proportionately one item with another, also the new Manual rates have been compiled with a greater degree of care than ever before.

Realizing the attitude most ratepayers who are adversely affected will take, it seems reasonable to predict a busy 1960 for the quasi-judicial appeal courts in those municipalities where the new Manual is employed.

- K.A. Luke, Secretary-Member

Extension of irrigation projects in southern Alberta during recent years has boosted irrigable acreage to 900,000 acres.

SWAN HILLS IN 1960



OFF THE DRAWING BOARD - By the end of this year the retail shopping centre of the New Town of Swan Hills should closely resemble the architect's drawing above. Some 140 miles northwest of Edmonton, Swan Hills is being constructed in virgin pine forests to serve the rich oilfields of the surrounding district.

Upper left is a projected 30-room hotel while the structure at the bottom will be the Town Office. Other sites are for a super market, banks, stores and offices with plenty of space provided for parking.